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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 003683

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FO; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN/MUSTAFA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: AUGUST 11, 2005 (1700 HOURS LOCAL) --
TEN PALESTINIANS INJURED IN BARRIER-RELATED CLASHES; ABBAS CALLS FOR FACTIONS TO ENSURE CALM AND ORDERLY GAZA
WITHDRAWAL

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

¶11. (SBU) SUMMARY: In the West Bank on August 10, ten Palestinians were injured during clashes with the IDF over construction of the separation barrier west of Ramallah. In Gaza, Israel radio reported August 11 that two Palestinians in Rafah were injured when an improvised hand grenade exploded. PA President Abbas and the PLO Executive Committee met in Gaza City August 10 and issued a statement calling Gaza disengagement a &historic test for the Palestinian people,⁸ and urging that all factions take action to ensure a smooth, orderly Israeli pullout from Gaza. End Summary.

West Bank

¶12. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Ten Palestinians were injured August 10 in clashes with the IDF in Liban al-Gharbiya village, west of Ramallah. The IDF was protecting Israeli workers building the separation barrier, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Arrests: The IDF entered Bethlehem and arrested three Palestinians on security charges, according to Palestinian security sources.

¶13. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- 14 PIJ and al-Aqsa prisoners being held by the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the Jericho prison declared a hunger strike starting August 12 if the PA does not release them. The prisoners have not been prosecuted/tried, but are jailed for allegedly committing serious security offenses.

Gaza

¶14. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injury: According to the IDF, a Palestinian source claimed that one Palestinian was wounded August 10 when the IDF initiated warning shots near the Kissufim Crossing.

-- Injuries: Israel radio reported August 11 that at about 0930 two Palestinians in Rafah were injured when an improvised hand grenade exploded.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported three shootings by Palestinians in Gaza August 10: two shootings near the Netzarim settlement that targeted IDF patrols, and one near the Rafiah Yam settlement that targeted IDF soldiers. No injuries resulted.

-- Mortars: The IDF reported one mortar shell fired August 10, 16:05 hrs in the vicinity of an IDF outpost near Netzarim settlement. No injuries were reported.

-- Explosive Devices: According to the IDF, Palestinian police found two explosive devices near the Sufa Crossing August 10, one at 1355 hrs and the other at 1600 hrs. They were both dismantled by the IDF. No injuries resulted.

-- Explosive Device: The IDF reported that the Palestinian police located an explosive device August 10 at 1655 hrs near the Elei Sinai settlement. It was dismantled by the IDF. No injuries resulted.

-- Fire: Israel Radio reported August 11 at 1352 that a fire had broken out in a factory in the Erez Industrial Zone.

¶15. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/INTERNAL CHECKPOINTS:

-- Erez crossing was open for Palestinians August 11 with 164 Palestinian laborers and 130 Palestinian merchants used the crossing.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open August 11, with 404 Palestinian laborers admitted.

-- Rafah Terminal was open in both directions, but closed to Palestinian males between the ages of 16 and 35 on August 11. UNRWA reported that the IDF allowed Palestinian males in this age group to cross provided they had coordinated their travel with Israeli authorities through PA officials.

-- The Karni terminal was partially open August 11.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers but open for construction materials August 11.

-- Netzarim Junction at Salahadeen Road was closed August 11.

-- The Netzarim Coastal Road was open August 11.

-- The Abu Houli internal crossing was open during most daylight hours August 11.

-- Salahadeen Road was open at Sufa/Morag August 11.

-- The Abu Al-Ajeen bypass road was closed August 11.

--- The Toufah checkpoint was closed on August 11.

16. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- PA President Abbas and the members of the PLO Executive Committee met in Gaza City August 10 and issued a statement calling Gaza disengagement a &historic test for the Palestinian people,⁸ and urging that all factions take action to ensure a smooth, orderly Israeli pullout from Gaza.

Abbas separately met with DFLP chief Saleh Zaidan August 10 to reach agreement on maintaining calm throughout Israel's disengagement from Gaza, and on setting a date for PLC elections. Abbas met with Hamas representatives yesterday, and will meet with PFLP and PIJ delegations August 11 on the same topics, according to PA political sources.

-- An Israeli military court sentenced Wahid Taysir, a former IDF soldier, to eight years in prison August 11 for the fatal April 2003 shooting of Tom Hurndall, a British national who was working with the International Solidarity Movement in Gaza.

-- Israeli media reported August 11 that the Palestinian Islamic Jihad announced it would continue attacks on Israel after the pullout.

WALLES